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Palestinian Affairs

PNSF Urges Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian Unity

JN0406191291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jun (SANA)—The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] has called for creating a nucleus for Arab awakening based on the fateful alliance of the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian triangle so that it can work as a pan-Arab bridge to mobilize Arab resources and international support to safeguard the Arab nation's dignity and the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination on their national soil.

In a statement issued here today, the PNSF said that the Zionist aggression is still continuing, the U.S. alliance with the Tel Aviv rulers is being strengthened, Jewish emigration to Palestine is still continuing with open and exposed support from the U.S. Administration, and sophisticated weapons are being stockpiled in Palestine to entrench the results of the Zionist aggression and to develop it in order to achieve the objectives of the Israeli entity.

The statement added that the PNSF's 8 April 1991 initiative is a firm and comprehensive national program to achieve the PLO's unity and its democratic and pan-Arab frameworks. It also constitutes a victory for the Palestinian people toward achieving national unity, safeguarding the PLO Charter, and establishing the independent Palestinian state.

The statement hailed our people's glorious intifadah in Palestine as the revolutionary and practical reply to the international-Zionist conspiracy and as the national strike force, and because it represents the genuine spirit of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Concluding its statement, the PNSF called for mobilizing all national and pan-Arab resources and potential to foil the results of the 5 June 1967 Zionist aggression against the Arab nation through recourse to basic principles and confronting the Zionist enemy and its expansionist plans that threaten the Arab nation's present and future.

Palestinians Meet Austrian Officials in Jerusalem

LD0206051691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Five Palestinians conferred yesterday evening in the [word indistinct] Hotel in occupied Jerusalem with the Austrian deputy foreign minister and the director general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the Palestinian side reviewed the political and economic situation in the occupied territories, the suffering of the Palestinans under the occupation, the confiscation of land, building new settlements, and settling the emigrant Jews in the occupied territories.

The Austrian side, which included four members of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, reiterated the firm stand of their government on the Palestinian issue and the right to return; self-determination; and to establish the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Austrian delegation expressed their disappointment caused by the difficult situation and living conditions which the Palestinian people face.

OPEC Affairs

Reportage Continues on Progress of OPEC Meeting

Production Ceiling at 22.3 Million

AU0406190891 Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Vienna, June 4 (AFP) — OPEC oil ministers on Tuesday agreed to maintain a production ceiling of 22.3 million barrels a day for the third quarter of this year, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced.

The 13 ministers had earlier agreed that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries market monitoring committee would meet again in the last week of September to set the production ceiling for the fourth quarter.

Iraq Blocks Subroto Re-election

AU0406131391 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Vienna, June 4 (AFP)—Iraq on Tuesday blocked the re- election of Dr. Subroto of Indonesia as OPEC secretary general, an informed source said here after the first working session of an OPEC ministerial conference.

Dr. Subroto would say only that the "nomination of the secretary general" would be discussed by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries oil ministers later in the day.

The current OPEC deputy secretary general is Ramzi Salman of Iraq, who was named to the post before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August.

New President Elected

AU0406114291 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Vienna, June 4 (AFP)—Venezuelan Oil Minister Celestino Armas was on Tuesday elected president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an informed source said here.

His Nigerian counterpart Jibril Aminu was elected vice-president of the 13-member organisation at a ministerial conference which began here Tuesday, the source said. [passage omitted]

Algeria

FIS Strike Leads to 'State of Siege' Order

'Text' of President's Message

LD0506085591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The president of the republic, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, issued an announcement this morning, the text of which follows:

A situation marked by disturbances has been affecting public order for more than one week, and the dangers of the aggravation of this situation could lead the country to a very serious crisis, which would then require wide-ranging repressive measures. In order to avoid all this, I announce in my capacity as president of the republic and protector of the Constitution, and in conformity to Article 86, a state of siege all over the national territory beginning 5 June 1991 at 0000 hours.

The head of the government has submitted his resignation to me, and I have accepted it. A new government will be formed after the necessary consultations with the political groups. The current electoral operation is considered suspended effective today. Legislative elections are postponed to a later date. Necessary measures will be taken to provide appropriate conditions for the holding of legislative elections to meet the democratic aspirations of the Algerian people.

I call upon all Algerians, men and women, all political groups and civil associations, personalities who are earnestly concerned about national interests, and all employees to mobilize in order to avoid difficult ordeals for the country, to secure the continuity of Republic institutions, and to entrench the democratic process and consolidate it.

Interior Minister's News Conference

LD0506042591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] As we mentioned earlier, the interior minister this evening held a news conference at the government palace to analyze the prevailing situation in the capital over the past 24 hours. Here is a summary of the news conference by our colleague Haythiya Haydar:

[Begin Haydar recording] At the beginning of the news conference, the interior minister explained the circumstances of resorting to the security authorities. He said: After two days of open strike declared by the Islamic salvation Front [FIS], the situation began to enter the stage of civil disobedience. After the matter started to concern the needs and security of citizens, the head of government contacted the FIS leader to agree not to resort to violence. The interior minister added that it was also agreed not to obstruct the movement of traffic, which was not accepted by some FIS activists.

The interior minister said: In view of the continuing threat, it is no longer possible to let matters progress as they have; we vacated the public squares in order to protect the comfort and security of the citizens.

The interior minister stressed that the security forces and the police did not use real bullets and mentioned the existence of victims, including an officer of the national police. He also stressed to the media that the demonstrators no longer included just FIS activists. The interior minister said: The composition changed in a fundamental way, and we are afraid that the FIS may not be able to control those people's behavior.

Interior Minister Mohamed Salah Mohammedi inquired who was responsible for firing at the security authorities and who was responsible for firing at innocent victims. Regarding this point, he said that the security forces and the police were given orders to reestablish security and not to supress the demonstrators.

Interior Minister Comments

LD0506045691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Following the news conference by the interior minister, our colleague Hezia Haidar contacted the minister and asked him about his assessment of the situation. The following dialogue ensued:

[Begin recording] [Mohamed Salah Mohammedi] I can say that the security authorities did not use bullets, but they were exposed to bullets. And this makes me note that there is indeed a serious change, because the people who used bullets against the security authorities, and perhaps against some of the other victims—and this is what the investigation that is under way will explain—this makes me think that perhaps there are among the the ranks of the fair-minded FIS activists perhaps elements that wish good neither to the country nor to the FIS.

[Haidar] [Word indistinct] is it possible to know the exact number of victims?

[Mohammedi] I have just told you that we are now compiling the figure. When hundreds of demonstrators clash with the security authorities, it is difficult to compile the number of the victims quickly.

[Haidar] You mentioned that there is a victim from the ranks of the national police. Can you tell us if there are victims on the other side?

[Mohammedi] There are. [end recording]

Security Forces Disperse Demonstrators

LD0606142291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpts] In the homeland, the sit-in of the militants of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in some public squares in the capital Algiers has, since dawn today, caused

strong tension, particularly in the flow of traffic, and has created an atmosphere of anxiety among citizens.

Security forces intervened last night and this morning with tear gas bombs to clear May Square in Algiers, where FIS militants have been staging a sit-in since the call was issued by the front on 25 May.

APS this morning said the operation, which took place without significant damage, implemented the measures announced yesterday by the Interior Ministry in response to the escalation. This has led to many interventions by the security forces. [passage omitted]

We will take a look now at developments this morning, after the events of last night. This is a report prepared by our colleagues Rabah Halis and Hizia Hideb, after a tour of the capital.

[Begin Hideb recording] The radio mission roamed this morning through some of the main quarters and streets of the capital, starting from Didouche Mourad Boulevard and passing through Odin Square and the central university, where we noticed normal activity, apart from queues in front of bakeries. In addition, the central post office was closed.

The Bab Al-Oued quarter contrasted with the center of Algiers. We noticed that trade activity was at a complete standstill. All private and public facilities were closed, including Bab Al-Oued market, which was closed again after it was opened by citizens yesterday. We also saw unusual pedestrian traffic.

The atmosphere in Martyrs' Square is characterized by the sit-in of FIS supporters in the center of the square, surrounded by a cordon of trucks and buses. Loudspeaker calls urged the evacuation of children from the square and asked people to leave. The radio mission noticed the absence of public buses at the central bus station, and a strike movement at the public treasury, which closed its doors.

The situation in Hassiba Ben Bouali boulevard is extremely tense, to the point that the security forces have prevented cars from entering it due to the clashes that took place between the forces of the National Police and FIS militants, who had been throwing stones at the police.

At the time of these clashes, the police forces quickly blocked all streets and exits at 1 May square, which was completely cleared of demonstrators by tear gas. This forced some demonstrators, who were carrying the slogans of the FIS, to take refuge in Mustapha Pacha University Hospital, that was also not spared from tear gas.

To ascertain if there were casualties, the radio mission went to the emergency wing where it found many people affected by gas. The radio mission learned from those in charge of organizing the treatment operation of FIS militants, and from medical sources at the university hospital who affirmed this, that no fatalities were reported. [passage omitted]

In Setif, the situation is similar, with marches and gatherings that continue, but in a calm atmosphere. [passage omitted] Yesterday evening a march took place with the participation of a large number of FIS militants: It toured the main streets of the town. The voice of Abbassi Madani was present in this march. This indicates that the FIS has not suffered rifts, and that Abbassi Madani remains, despite what has been rumored, the Number One man. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Student Union Communique

LD0406160791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] As a result of the situation prevailing on the national scene, the Algerian university has also witnessed some unrest. In this context, the national radio this morning received a communique of the Free General Union of Students, urging students to be vigilant in order to preserve student unity, and not to follow anyone betraying their interests.

The communique also urges the Ministry of Universities and the heads of universities and colleges to insure that the appropriate conditions are made available and to psychologically prepare students and teachers so that examinations can take place in normal conditions.

The communique of the Free General Union of Students also warns the Interior Ministry of the consequences of using force against students, a matter that threatens the stability of security on the campus.

FIS Urges Suspension of Demonstrations

LD0406171791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] We have heard a call made through a loudspeaker from the radio station building on behalf of the provincial office of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] urging the front's activists to suspend the demonstrations until further notice.

The special units of the National Gendarmerie were continuing their intervention in some streets of the capital's center to disperse the FIS activists and supporters who had gathered in these streets. The special units of the gendarmerie were using tear gas and rubber bullets, according to witnesses. Official sources have not yet said whether this has led to any deaths.

Demonstrations Continue

LD0406203191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] From 1 May Square, the National Gendarmerie has reported that four of its men were injured last night when the driver of a Volkswagen van went through a security road-block erected by the gendarmerie. According to the same source, the driver of

the van was immediately arrested without any shots being fired. The man will appear in court after preliminary inquiries.

According to an APS report, the operation to clear up 1 May Square lasted about an hour and a half. At dawn, some streets of the capital, particularly in the center, woke up to a tense atmosphere since the private and public premises had closed their doors, fearing the consequences of any deterioration in the situation. The special units of the National Gendarmerie continued to control all the streets leading to 1 May Square and Martyrs' Square. However, since this morning these units have not stopped firing tear gas in the direction of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] supporters who were trying to return to 1 May Square. Some eyewitnesses informed the national radio that rubber bullets were fired at the demonstrators.

We have just received a communique from the command of the National Gendarmerie stating that Captain Amghachouche Messaoud died at 1600 today during an operation to restore order after he was hit in the face by a stone thrown by one of the demonstrators. Captain Amghachouche Messaoud was 40 years-old, married, with four children. Following this sad incident, the commander, officers, and noncommissioned officers and agents of the gendarmerie offered the family of the deceased their most sincere condolences and implored God to bless his soul.

Another APS report said that demonstrators affiliated with FIS stormed the Maison de la Presse situated in 1 May Square this afternoon and occupied the premises. This forced the owners of independent newspapers to close their offices to avert any clashes. The news agency added that the demonstrators used stones to confront the security forces that came to drive them out of the Maison de la Presse. [passage omitted]

Our correspondents, who have moved through the main streets of the capital to follow the situation, have sent us this report:

[Begin Slimani recording] The confrontation between the demonstrators and the security forces intensified this afternoon when the latter increased the use of tear gas grenades to disperse the FIS demonstrators who had assembled in 1 May Square, refusing to evacuate the square and the streets leading there. After going through El Hama and Belouzded Streets, we noticed that the clashes between the gendarmerie forces and the demonstrators were extremely violent. We also saw a car on fire and a truck belonging to the Galeries Algeriennes [a local store] was used to block off the street leading to 1 May Square. It is worth mentioning that the young demonstrators were carrying iron and wooden bars and stones. This made the security forces use firearms. At the Khaled Ibn Walid mosque in Belcourt, we saw inside an ambulance that belonged to the organizing committee the body of one youngster who died after being hit by bullets. After the body was taken away, calls rose from the mosque's loudspeaker urging the demonstrators to retreat and await instructions from the FIS leadership and not to confront the security forces. The person speaking through the loudspeaker added that if the leadership decided to meet force with force, orders would be issued in time.

We then moved to the Mustapha Pacha University hospital which, it seems, is under the influence of the FIS committee organizing the strike. During our visit to the hospital, we noticed a gathering around Mr. Abassi Madani who had arrived to visit the injured. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was a report by our colleague Mohsin Slimani on his tour in 1 May Square and Belcourt. We now have a report by Messaoud Salem Ibrahim on his tour in other streets of the capital:

[Begin Ibrahim recording] In El Biar, at 1500, traffic is normal but the private and public premises remain shut. The same applied to Bab El Oued. At the entrance of Maillot hospital, a large number of demonstrators are gathered and ambulances coming from 1 May Square were arriving one after the other bringing those who fainted as a result of the tear gas grenades used by the security forces to disperse the demonstrators occupying this square. At Martyrs' Square and Che Guevara Street large numbers of FIS activists and supporters are gathered all the way to Zirout Youcef Street where clouds of the tear gas, used by the security forces positioned along Zirout Youcef and Amirouche streets, are billowing. In Hassiba Benbouali Street, large numbers of demonstrators who were driven out of 1 May Square have been there since midnight. [end recording]

We promise our listeners that other reports will be given on the latest developments.

Egypt

Syria's al-Asad Arrives, Welcomed by Mubarak

NC0506103291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a brief visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak led the well-wishers who received the Syrian president at the airport. Mubarak then accompanied President al-Asad to the Presidential Palace.

People's Assembly Approves State Budget

NC0506082591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The People's Assembly will resume its meeting this morning under Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur.

At its meeting last night, the People's Assembly approved the social-economic plan and the state's general budget for the fiscal year 1991-92. The budget's total

expenditures are 54,431,028,000 Egyptian pounds and the total sources of available financing are 50,343,329,000 Egyptian pounds. The net deficit of 4,087,699,000 Egyptian pounds will be financed by the banking sector.

Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz stressed that all the expenditures included in the budget will be financed by genuine financial resources in line with the government's policy of self- reliance. He added that the new budget reflects the aims of the economic and financial program and aims at submitting all the facts to the people.

U.S. Stockpiling of Arms in Israel Under Fire

NC0406193491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Commenting on relations between the United States and Israel in light of the current efforts to achieve peace in the region, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the signing of the agreement on the stockpiling of U.S. arms and equipment in Israel and the accompanying statements emphasizing the deep permanent bonds between Washington and Tel Aviv have transformed Israel into an official U.S. military base in the region.

The paper notes that the Arab man in the street now feels doubly frustrated. The agreement came when he expected a better U.S.-Israeli understanding that would lead to peace and the solution of the Palestinian issue, and this understanding that can only be achieved through pressure. Furthermore, the signing of the agreement coincided with President Bush's plan for limiting weapons of mass destruction and other sophisticated weapons in the region.

AL-AHRAM asks: The timing of the agreement raises many questions. It is true that these are U.S. weapons and will be stored in U.S. depots and that they are intended to be used for the new security order that will emerge after the Gulf war. All this, however, is not enough to allay fears because the stockpiling is taking place on Israeli territory. Given the special strategic ties between the United States and Israel, who can guarantee that "at some time and in some way," these weapons will not be used to further Israeli goals?

Commenting on the U.S. efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, AL-AKHBAR says that observers believe that the Bush administration is sincere in its efforts to succeed where earlier U.S. governments failed and establish peace in the Middle East on firm foundations. Good intentions are not enough to attain great goals, however. They must be coupled with a strong resolve to overcome all obstacles to peace and to persuade the obstructionist side, Israel, to abandon its stubbornness, intransigence, and determination to cling to what belongs to others. In an editorial entitled "Bush's Initiatives—Wishes and Facts," the paper says Bush's initiatives to pave the way for talks that could end suffering in the Middle East have not succeeded, and everyone knows that the reason for this Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's illusory belief that he can win both land and peace. Shamir needs to wake up and accept reality.

Kuwait

Italian Prime Minister Andreotti Begins Visit

Arrives 4 Jun

LD0406201941 London KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 June (KUNA)—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Kuwait today at the head of an official delegation which comprises a number of senior officials of the Italian Government. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

LD0406211491 London KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Jun (KUNA)—Today, at noon, his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, received Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and the delegation accompanying him on the occasion of their visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Confers With Prime Minister

LD0406134491 London KUNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Jun (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, His Highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his office in al-Bayn Palace at 1230 today Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Official talks between the State of Kuwait and the Italian Republic were then held; the Kuwaiti side was led by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, while the Italian side was led by Giulio Andreotti. [passage omitted]

His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister welcomed the contribution of Italian companies and institutions toward the reconstruction of Kuwait.

The talks also addressed the friendly and firm bilateral relations and ways of improving them in various fields, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

Al-Ya'qub Says Harm to Palestinians Exaggerated

LD0106235291 London KUNA in Arabic 2009 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpt] London, 1 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Information Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub has stressed that the National Council in Kuwait is based on an order issued by His Highness Shaykh Jabir-al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, and that it is not unconstitutional. He stressed that there is no stipulation in the constitution or in any other state law prohibiting the establishment of other councils in addition to the National Council, providing that these councils are not legislative.

In a statement to 'AL-HAYAT', published in London today, the information minister criticizes hostile media for their great exaggeration of the harm done to Palestinians or to other nationalities.

In his statement to 'AL-HAYAT', Minister of Information Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub says: Some individualistic practices took place at the beginning of the liberation when the government was absent. However, since the return of legitimacy and since regaining the reins of power, we have not been hearing about that kind of practice; if instances to occur, normal measures will be taken, and they will be referred to courts. Indeed, this has been happening. [passage omitted]

Regarding reports that some Palestinians in Kuwait are still armed, he said: The Interior Ministry has called on citizens, whether Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis, to hand over all weapons that are in their possession within a month.

The Kuwaiti information minister denied the existence of an Egyptian campaign against Kuwait: "Rather there are differences in points of view, no more no less." He said that fact is that "Egypt continues to support Kuwait, and has not retreated from its positions. But if some of the articles published in the Egyptian press have views on certain matters, these represent the proprietor of the newspaper and the author of that point of view. As to the Egyptian Government, it remains in body and soul with Kuwait, and will continue to support the Kuwaiti point of view." On the reasons that led Cairo to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, Dr. al-Ya'qub says, "There is a timetable for the withdrawal of the Egyptian forces, and all that has happened is that the implementation of this timetable has begun." Answering a question on the restoration of the National Assembly, the minister of information said: "The speech of his highness the amir was very clear: next year will witness the return of the Kuwaiti Parliament and the return of parliamentary life to Kuwait." He added that fixing the date for this is "left to the amir, and I believe that this will be fixed later on."

The Kuwaiti minister of information asserts that the National Assembly in Kuwait "was created by an Amiri order and there is no mistake in the Constitution."

He pointedly asserts that there is "no article in the Constitution, nor is any stipulation in any other law which prohibits the creation of other bodies are not legislative."

Dr. al-Ya'qub believes that "the government's emergency program has been wholly successful; some bodies have been 99 percent successful. [passage omitted]

Opposition Holds First Postwar Rally

NC0406211191 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 4 Jun 91

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Kuwait City, June 4 (AFP)—Standing a thousand strong in long white robes, Kuwait's opposition held its

first rally since the Gulf war in a drive to match victory over Iraq with democracy in their tiny state.

"Kuwait, it's been destroyed. It's been a war. We have something. I believe it should be better," said Khalid Sulayman, a 40-year-old technician.

The ruling al-Sabah family dissolved parliament in 1986 and crushed a swelling pro-democracy movement in June 1990.

The U.S.-led victory that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in February, the continuing American military presence and the coverage here by the Western press have helped embolden the opposition to show its face again, political leaders said.

The rally was handled in subdued style as the government bans political gatherings of more than 20 people. There were no speeches as men assembled starting at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) in traditional long gowns and turbans.

The gathering soon turned to a crush outside the green-and-white Fatimah Mosque as tightly packed groups formed around opposition leaders, many being interviewed by Western and Arab journalists.

The demonstration was held outside a mosque to give it the guise of an assembly for prayers.

"This is a first step," said Imad al-Sayf of the nonsectarian Democratic Forum party. Ahmad Dakir of the Popular Islamic Coalition said the opposition would continue with demonstrations.

"We want to tell the people that the complete freedom of Kuwait has not happened yet. A legitimate government has not happened," Mr. Dakir said.

The opposition has rejected the government announcement over the weekend that it would hold general elections in 1992. It says this is too long to wait and that parliament should be reconvened immediately.

The opposition appears to represent people like Muhammad Nassar, an investment manager who came Tuesday night out of curiosity.

"I think it's great. These guys are good," he said.

He explained: "The current government is not doing any good for business. They don't know what they're doing. They don't choose the right people. They only choose people who are loyal to them," he said.

The opposition charges the government with incompetence in rebuilding after the war, specifically in failing to streamline bureaucracy or to move quickly on such problems as putting out the hundreds of oil wells still ablaze. It says the lack of popular consultation in a parliament hinders good decision-making.

Oil-rich Kuwait had before the war enjoyed one of the world's highest per-capita incomes. The rich merchant class here has in many cases been badly hit by looting of inventory and other damage by the Iraqi occupiers and wishes to move quickly to recover.

The opposition, made up of seven unofficial Islamic and nonsectarian groupings, has been united since Kuwait was liberated in February and has issued several joint statements.

It inherits a particularly Kuwaiti style of politics conducted in disguised forms.

'Abdallah al-Nibari, of the nonsectarian Democratic Forum party, told Agence France-Presse earlier Tuesday that the opposition rejected the government's decision, also announced Sunday, to have National Council meet in July as an interim parliament.

It is a body with "no authority, purely consultative, a facade which does what the government wants it to", he said.

He added that even if this body gave women the vote, which would be a breakthrough for the Gulf region, this would be suspect since the council is not a parliament which can pass laws.

The National Council was elected in June. It has 50 elected members and 25 appointed by the head of state.

Oman

Italian Prime Minister Holds Talks in Muscat

Meets With Sultan Qabus

JN0206143891 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Excerpts] At the Al-'Alam Palace today, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and his delegation. The two sides spoke about cooperation between the two friendly countries and Arab and international concerns. [passage omitted]

The Italian prime minister arrived in the country earlier today on a two-day official visit to the sultanate. [passage omitted]

Received by Foreign Minister

AU0306120091 Rome ANSA in English 1012 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Muscat, 3 June (ANSA)—Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti arrived in the Sultanate of Oman, Sunday [2 June] afternoon, on the second leg of a six-nation Middle East tour, officials said.

Andreotti, who was met at Muscat airport by Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id Fahd Al Sa'id, was scheduled to meet with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id later in the evening. Before leaving Saudi Arabia earlier in the day, the Italian government chief conferred with Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, who was in Dhahran to attend a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In his talks with the Omani diplomatic chief, Andreotti learnt that special efforts to curb environmental damage and put out burning oil wells in Kuwait a soon as possible were under way, with 133 out of a total 600 wells already extinguished, and the operation expected to be finished by December.

The two men also studied other post-Gulf-war issues, with particular attention given to efforts to bring Israel into regional peace talks. No one the Omani minister implied, can ignore the existence of the Jewish state any longer.

Andreotti's stay in Saudi Arabia also included a meeting with King Fahd, and talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal, both of whom expressed optimism over chances of forging a lasting peace in the Middle East region in the wake of the Gulf war. Both of the Italian leader's hosts aid emphasis on the unprecedented unity of the Arab world at this point in time, while the foreign minister agreed with Andreotti on the need to grasp current opportunities to find a solution for the Palestinian problem.

"It would be unthinkable to miss this opportunity, Andreotti said, adding that Europe is very active in this regard, and will make every effort to convince Israel to accept a start to dialogue which, he insisted, is the only way of overcoming obstacles.

During a banquet given Saturday evening in Andreotti's honour by the Saudi monarch, and attended by most of the members of the Saudi Government, King Fahd and the Italian leader also discussed the current situation in the Horn of Africa.

Saudi Arabia

Italian Prime Minister Conducts Official Visit

Arrives in Dhahran 1 Jun

LD0106225191 Riyadh SPA in English 1911 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Dhahran, June 1, SPA—Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti and his accompanying delegation arrived here this afternoon on a visit to the kingdom.

He was greeted at Dhahran International Airport by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general.

He was also received at the airport by Prince Mohammad bin Fahd, the governor of the Eastern Province, Faysal al-Hejailan [name as received], the minister of health and escorting minister, Prince Mishri bin Saud, undersecretary of the National Guard in the Eastern Province, Prince Sultan bin Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Brigadier Prince Turki bin Nasir, commander of King Abd-al-'Aziz airbase, Major General Salih al-Mohayya, commander of the Eastern Military Zone, many high ranking civil and military officials.

Opens Talks With King Fahd

LD0106230591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Al-Khubar, 1 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency Guilio Andreotti, prime minister of Italy, held a meeting at the Al-'Azizyyah Palace this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqari, private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Faysal al-Hijaylan, minister of health and escort to the Italian prime minister; His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information; and Khalid Nasir al-Turki, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

It was also attended by Mario Maiolini, the Italian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Received by Foreign Minister

LD0306150191 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Al-Dammam, June 3, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal described the visit by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti to the Kingdom as a precious opportunity for laying down foundations for cooperation between the two countries.

Prince Sa'ud, in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) following his meeting with Andreotti on Sunday, said talks between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Italian premier have been lengthy and very important as they covered the situation in the Arab Gulf region following the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation and the international cooperation for reversing the aggression.

Prince Sa'ud hailed the Italian role during the events in the Gulf.

As for his talks with Andreotti, Prince Sa'ud said they tackled cooperation between the Kingdom and Italy in the framework of the international legitimacy.

Prince Sa'ud said the Italian premier during his meeting with King Fahd explained his country's stand toward the Palestinian issue.

United Arab Emirates

Italy's Andreotti Continues Regional Tour

Arrives in Abu Dhabi 3 Jun

JN0306091891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0846 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jun (WAKH)—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a

two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates within the framework of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan was at the head of those receiving him.

As part of his tour, Mr. Andreotti has so far visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN0306195591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jun (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Emirian minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the Italian Council of Ministers, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, they reviewed current developments in the region as well as cooperation between the two countries.

Confers With Shaykh Zayid

JN0306195891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1905 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jun (WAKH)—Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti in Abu Dhabi this evening. They discussed the latest international developments, foremost of which are the situation in the Gulf, the postwar security arrangements after the liberation of the State of Kuwait, efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question, ways of bringing about peace in the Middle East, and cooperation between the two countries and ways of enhancing it.

Talks With Bush Via Telephone

JN0406115291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has announced that U.S. President George Bush affirmed to him in a lengthy telephone conversation he held with him in Abu Dhabi last night his commitment to resolve the Palestine question.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Andreotti added that during their conversation they expressed hopes that the obstacles which emerged to hamper the launching of a constructive dialogue to resolve the Middle East conflict can be removed. He went on to say that his country is making a small contribution in this regard. He affirmed that wasting this opportunity to realize the aspirations of the Palestinian people will be regrettable and disappointing.

Andreotti pointed out that contacts could help to remove some difficulties and push Israel to start negotiations, the launching of which has been delayed for several years.

Issues Statement, Departs 4 Jun

JN0406114091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and his delegation left Abu Dhabi this morning following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his current tour of the region.

The Italian prime minister was seen off at the airport by UAE Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

Andreotti made a statement saying that his talks with UAE officials enhanced bilateral ties which he termed as good.

Andreotti added that Italy's ties with the UAE and the Gulf states were bolstered by Italy's participation in mineweeping operations in the Gulf in the aftermath of the liberation of Kuwait.

The Italian prime minister said that he renewed an invitation to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to visit Rome in the near future. He added that he sensed during his tour in the Gulf states that the Gulf crisis and its painful events had strengthened the solidarity of the world states with the Gulf countries.

Andreotti affirmed that this solidarity will be maintained. On the international level, it will be possible [for the Gulf states] not only to consolidate their ties with other nations in the economic and trade spheres, but also to establish useful ties with them in all spheres, considering that the Arab world is an indivisible part of the world and the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Italian prime minister indicated that he sensed an eagerness on the part of the region's states not to see a repeat of what happened on 2 August last year. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait helped give birth to the idea of a collective security plan, which should have a general political framework involving the entire world if it is to succeed, Andreotti added. He called for canvassing world solidarity around this plan—a solidarity whose strength exceeds the solidarity attained for confronting the Iraqi occupation. He expressed satisfaction over the removal of some difficulties and differences of opinion between the USSR and the United States regarding the attainment of world security and stability.

U.S. Demands for War Reparations Rejected

AU0406113891 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Vienna, June 4 (AFP)—Iraq on Tuesday categorically rejected Washington's proposal that Baghdad should pay out war reparations equivalent to half its oil revenue to the victims of the Gulf conflict, particularly Kuwait. "Definitely not," Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hithi said in reaction to Washington's request, put forward Monday.

Mr. Al-Hithi, in Vienna for an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministerial meeting which opened here Tuesday, stressed that Baghdad had asked for a five-year grace period before paying any reparations.

"We have to rebuild the country, to buy medicine and food and we need time to recover," he said.

"We need to go back to the international community, take care of our people and our industry."

The United States insisted Monday that Iraq be forced to set aside 50 per cent of its future oil revenues for war reparations, judging the 30 per cent share proposed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as insufficient.

"As a result of the damage incurred and Iraq's continued repressive policies we believe the figure suggested is too low," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

The Iraqi minister also said that Iraq was currently producing 450,000 barrels of oil a day, against 3.14 million ahead of the Gulf war. But he said that Iraq would be able to produce a million barrels a day in the third quarter of this year and could recover pre-war production levels in the second half of 1992.

The United Nations has not yet lifted a trade embargo imposed on Iraq in reaction to its invasion of Kuwait in August.

UN Delegate Criticizes War Reparations Figure

JN0206052391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 1 Jun (INA)—'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, has asserted that by recommending that Iraq pay 30 percent of its oil revenues as reparations to the countries that were harmed by the aggressive war, the UN secretary general is ignoring Iraq's reconstruction requirements.

In a statement to the BBC, al-Anbari said this percentage is very high, although the world knows that Iraq has been under total siege for more than 10 months now and that the U.S.-led war has destroyed nearly all the country's infrastructure.

He added that the reconstruction of Iraq will need huge sums of money—something that was not taken into account.

Al-Anbari also said that the committee set up by the Security Council is a political one, whose members do not know how to implement international law because they are neither judges nor lawyers.

He also pointed out that the destruction of Iraq's oil industry will affect the country's oil exports.

Regarding the mechanism through which Iraq will pay into the fund, al-Anbari said: Nobody knows. It is a very complicated formula, and I believe some people have proposed three alternatives to the UN secretary general, but I do not think any of them will win the Security Council's approval.

He also said that Iraq needs to export as much oil as possible; and that if Iraq has to pay large sums of money to foreign countries, it will have to produce large quantities of oil. This, he added, will indirectly harm OPEC member states.

Ramadan Interviewed on War, Arab Relations

PM0306091591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 May 91 p 2

[Interview with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by al-Sayyid al-Mallah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The interview became tense when he spoke bitterly and forcefully about the Egyptian media, saying they are "paid." I asked him not to generalize and gave AL-SHA'B's principled stands as an example. I said that many journalists disagree with us and they hold views because they believe them to be right, not because they want to serve selfish interests. He agreed with me but stressed that he has a list of names paid by the United States, Israel, and others.

The following is a review of what went on during the interview, the first between a senior Iraqi official and an Egyptian journalist since the war.

The Iraqi official began by saying: Let me first send special greetings to brothers [Labor Party leader] Ibrahim Shukri and [AL-SHA'B Chief Editor] 'Adil Husayn and express high appreciation for their genuine position during the battle. That was their cause and we appreciate their stand at a time of intense conspiracy. That was not an easy thing to do, and it has had a special effect on us.

After thanking him for these greetings I began to put my questions, pointing out that the aim was to arrive at the truth and nothing else. He agreed and the dialogue began.

[Al-Mallah] Egyptian readers and public opinion in Egypt and other Arab states are confused and wonder

what happened after Iraq's heroic steadfastness for more than a month of hostile air raids. They hoped that the land battles would be at the same level of steadfastness and heroism. What happened to cause the collapse of these expectations, which included U.S. expectations of 30,000 dead? It was even said that they sent plastic coffins for their dead.

[Ramadan] You speak of the steadfastness against the air and missile attacks, which really continued for 42 days. It was something which surpassed all enemies' imagination. They had estimated that it would be a matter of hours, a day, or three days but it continued for 42 days, greatly exceeding their expectations. [passage omitted]

We do not view the matter from a purely mechanical angle. Militarily speaking, who was the victor? Any assessment from that angle would be illogical. I mean the United States, with its military capabilities and the best technology in the world, facing just one country, Iraq. And even numerically, considering the armed concentration of manpower they built up—with, regrettably, considerable Arab participation, particularly from the Egyptian and Syrian Armies—we cannot say that the Iraqi Army was supposed to defeat the armies of 30 states. That actually is the measure of victory.

I believe that anyone without suspicious long-term ulterior motives would admit that the mere fact that 30 states came together militarily, using a UN framework, to face Iraq is in itself a victory and a reflection of Iraq's capabilities, particularly from a moral standpoint, which is more important than the military aspect. [passage omitted]

We believe that, so long as the people's morale is high, we must maintain that morale. Their aim is to destroy the morale of the Arab people so that they would surrender and submit to a fait accompli. So long as that aspect was not harmed, all material losses become tolerable. The plot was a multifaceted one. The internal disturbances you saw were linked to the military action and it was agreed upon between Iran and these forces. The second chapter in the U.S. plot was that on the fourth day of action to achieve their target they resorted to saboteurs who had been expelled, and they sought their assistance after the battles. We must comprehend the magnitude of the plot, the parties to that plot, and the phases of the plot. We say: Could anyone, even among those closest to Iraq, imagine that Iraq would be able to surmount all that? I believe not. Some Arab leaders, especially those who colluded, thought that Iraq was finished, and that is why they took that strange conspiratorial course. They could not see Iraq surviving. Without exaggeration, we believe that the mother of all battles demonstrated some great creative capability and showed that our nation is capable if guided in the right direction. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mallah] It was known from the beginning that 30 states were massing about half a million soldiers. I mean there was no surprise and, until the very last moment, initiatives were made to settle the matter peacefully, but all were rejected by Iraq.

[Ramadan] These were not peace initiatives. When Iraq entered Kuwait it knew that the United States and many other states would not applaud. Even on 15 February in the statement we issued, we said that Kuwait was Iraqi. We still say that even today, and Palestine is Arab and if the Arabs resist they would be a match for the state of Israel. When the outlook is unjust and partial and when the initiative is one of "withdraw or we will hit you," withdrawal would mean defeat, but we were ready for sacrifice and we were ready for martyrdom rather than surrender. We had expected all that. For example, when Imam al-Husayn came, he was besieged and he knew that he was going to be martyred but he did not withdraw. We expected all that, to the last moment. Ideas were discussed and we kept repeating the same Iraqi experiences, let blood and sacrifice be the way of the Arabs, and to this day we have not conceded.

The aim of the initiatives was withdrawal and defeat. Assuming, as they say, that we lost the battle, that would still be better than surrender and defeat. The prophet, may God's blessings and peace be upon him, waged many battles and lost some, but he never abandoned Islam. He waged other battles later and scored great victories. The United States aborted every peaceful initiative, including President Saddam's initiative. The Arabs were supposed to surrender. That is what the United States wanted. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mallah] It has been said that battles were fought between the Republican Guards and the U.S. forces. How true is that?

[Ramadan] That is true. In the southern area after the announcement of the withdrawal, one of the main aims of the U.S. forces was to destroy the Iraqi Army, especially the better trained and more capable Republican Guard forces which, were inside for a different indirect mission, for the battle inside Kuwait. They tried to clash with these forces and to prevent them from withdrawing. A battle broke out between a Republican Guard brigade and a U.S. division. The losses on the other side were very high. In direct fighting which lasted more than 12 hours, the attacking force was nearly finished, but they used aircraft and long-range missiles. Had they succeeded in that battle they would have moved on against other units.

The battle was at its height, Bush did not achieve his objective, that is why he accepted the cease-fire. He knew what the reaction in the United States would be if U.S. losses mounted.

[Al-Mallah] Public opinion was beginning to shift. Students were being killed—particularly in Egypt. It has been said that one of the reasons for the cease-fire was the political view that, if that continued, it would affect the internal situation in Egypt and other Arab states.

[Ramadan] That means, I am afraid, that Mubarak urged Bush to speed up the cease-fire to prevent the situation from becoming more explosive. If any credit is to go to Mubarak, it is for speeding up the strike against Iraq, not promoting the cease-fire.

[Al-Mallah] People wonder why Iraq accepts whatever is offered and why it has accepted what it rejected in the beginning?

[Ramadan] What could Iraq do when there is no international legitimacy and no Security Council, with everything dictated by the United States? [passage omitted]

[Al-Mallah] There have been reports of friction between the Egyptian and Iraqi people, and now it has been claimed that Egyptians are not welcome in Iraq, at popular or official levels.

[Ramadan] Where are the signs of that hostility? Egyptians have begun returning in large numbers. We must be realistic and understand matters as they really are. I am sure that they make a mountain out of molehill. Regrettably—you may or may not print this, but it is my view—a great percentage of the Egyptian media is not genuine but subjugated. If the labor crisis had occurred before the Gulf crisis, they would not have talked about it in this way. Egyptians have been expelled from Kuwait, although Egypt opened its gates to the Kuwaiti Government and people. The Egyptian Army went to Kuwait, but the first to be expelled, killed, and imprisoned in Kuwait were Egyptians. How many Egyptians will remain in Kuwait? They will not reach even one quarter of the previous number, and the number will not be increased in acknowledgment of Mubarak's position, as some say. However, if only one person had been killed in Iraq, the Egyptian press would have said 100 were killed.

The return of the Egyptians is natural. We do not treat the Egyptians as they treat us and we are not reimposing the visa requirement as the Egyptian Government has done. [passage omitted]

An Egyptian decision has been issued prohibiting travel [to Iraq] and reimposing the visa requirement. We have issued no such decision. Entry of Egyptians and Arabs into Iraq is the same as it was even before the present Mubarak government came to power. No measures have been taken at government level, but if the Iraqi people really wanted to give vent to their feelings, then massacres would have occurred. Every Iraqi who has lost a martyr is saying: The Egyptian Army and the Egyptian Government played a part in the war, but the the Egyptian people are not responsible for the actions of their rulers. We project the positive aspects here and there, however small.

If there were real hate then scores might have been killed. However, it is better for an Iraqi to listen to Israel radio than to Egyptian radios. The Iraqis may listen to all world radios but they hear nothing like what they hear from Cairo and Voice of the Arabs radios. All that has an effect. The return of Egyptians is not proof of anything. There is no work at present in Iraq, and Iraq cannot afford to pay their salaries. The question is, however: Why are the Egyptians returning from Kuwait after what Egypt has done for it?

[Al-Mallah] What about constitutional reform, democracy, and the form of government in Iraq?

[Ramadan] All I can say about pluralism, the press, and the Constitution has already been announced. It was announced years ago, as you know, but the war has delayed the process. Now we confirm it. These things will be implemented and all these laws will, God willing, be put forward.

[Al-Mallah] What about the Iraqi aircraft in Iran, their number, and the way in which Iraq intends to recover them? And what is the state of Iraqi-Iranian relations?

[Ramadan] The number mentioned by Iraq is the correct one. Iran is a treacherous and plotting country. Still, we give the technicians the necessary information when they meet, from both sides.

[Al-Mallah] What is the situation with Egypt now? Are there steps to mend the rift and dress the wounds?

[Ramadan] With all the Egyptian people there are no wounds, the wounds are with the government. We are brothers and we will cooperate via every available means. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Links Dinar's Value to Blockade

JN2805194491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (INA)—Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far has said that Iraqi currency, including the recently circulated 25- and 50-dinar notes, is fully backed financially.

In an interview with the weekly ALIF BA', which the paper will publish in tomorrow's edition, the minister said experts who supervised the designs on the Iraqi currency were trying to conceal a number of secrets to ensure that the currency cannot be forged.

He expressed confidence that the Iraqi dinar would regain its status and actual value in a short time. The true backing for any country's currency, the minister said, is the country's national wealth above and beneath the earth, including factories, farms, and natural resources.

He said Iraq is not worried about the value of its dinar. Despite all enemy conspiracies to weaken it, the dinar will recover its old value, because it is backed by a strong national wealth, the minister said.

The finance minister said an increase in the value of the Iraqi dinar is linked to an increase in national production, growth in national revenues, an economic boom, and a lifting of the economic blockade against Iraq.

He disclosed that depositors will soon be allowed to withdraw freely from their current and saving accounts ("in all Iraqi banks). One of the measures taken by the state during the 30-state aggression against Iraq limited withdrawals to 400 dinars; the measure is still in effect.

The minister discussed the reactivation of al-Rafidayn Bank branches abroad, and said these branches will resume activity in light of UN measures to lift the blockade on Iraq

Referring to the project of commercial banks, Minister Ja'far said this weeks's amendment to the Iraqi Central Bank law authorized the licensing of such banks. Establishing these banks is an initiative left up to the private sector, he added.

The minister spoke about the stock exchange market in Iraq and said the Council of Ministers approved this market, which will begin financial activity once the relevant law is ratified.

Health Minister Requests Aid From Red Cross

JN3105122191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has stressed Iraq's urgent need for help from health and humanitarian organizations in carrying out its health and preventive programs in the current phase.

During a meeting with a delegation today, the health minister urged the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to extend urgent and swift assistance to Iraq to provide medicine and medical equipment to meet the hospitals' pressing needs, which resulted from the continuous shortage of medicine and vaccines as a result of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

They also discussed health conditions and epidemics in Iraq that resulted from the destruction by aggression aircraft of many hospitals and their essential medicine supplies.

The ICRC delegation said their organization was ready to coordinate efforts with Iraq to support health programs and help it overcome the current circumstances.

The ICRC delegation comprises John de Curtan, chief of the ICRC's operations, and Dominic Degure Chebrar, chief of the ICRC's mission in Baghdad. [names as received]

Assembly Rejects Study on Medicine Rationing

JN0106184091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)—During a session this evening chaired by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the National Assembly approved a bill on medical disability for employees. [passage omitted]

The National Assembly also rejected a Health Ministry study intended to ration medicine. The discussion of the study was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the physicians union, and the dentists union. The study was rejected because there are no sufficient objective reasons to make it a law.

Minister Calls for Lifting Ban on Pharmaceuticals

JN0406195691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Industry and Military Industrialization Minister 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di has called on the international community and international health organizations to work to lift the ban on the sale of raw materials for use in the pharmaceutical industry in Iraq. In a statement to INA, he said that Iraq depends on a large number of medicines produced by the Iraqi pharmaceutical industry and that the suspension in providing the industry with raw materials has resulted in the unavailability of these medicines.

The minister appealed to international bodies immediately to intervene to help Iraq obtain the raw materials needed for the production of ammonium nitrate, which is needed to produce nitrous oxide gas, used as an anesthetic in surgical operations. The minister said that Iraq's reserves of this material are on the verge of depletion and that this requires the specialized international organizations, particularly the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to act quickly to supply Iraq with this material.

He added that Iraq is now in dire need of other materials that directly affect human life and that could be produced in Iraq if the elements to produce them were made available.

He said that the countries of the aggression had used all the international leverage they could muster to impose a siege on the raw materials used by the Iraqi pharmaceutical industry and had thus deprived sick children and old people of Iraq of the chance to combat illness. Not content with this, their agents, the mobs, destroyed one of the most advanced pharmaceutical plants, which produced the basic medical requirements needed by the citizens.

German Journalist's Release Reported

NC0306105991 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, June 3 (AFP)—A German radio journalist was released here Monday five days after her arrest near Karkuk in northern Iraq, and has been authorized to leave the country, officials said.

Elisabeth Schmidt, a correspondent for ARD radio, said she had entered northern Iraq from Turkey last Tuesday and was detained Wednesday afternoon by Iraqi police.

After eight hours of questioning in Karkuk, she told reporters, she was transferred to Baghdad where she was held in a hotel.

She said that at the time of her arrest on the outskirts of Karkuk she was wearing traditional Kurdish dress.

Ms. Schmidt said she would go to Amman before returning to Turkey.

Opposition Warns of New Massacre in al-Ahwar

NC0106142391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have expressed fears of a new massacre by the bloody tyrant Saddam Husayn's forces in the al-Ahwar area and the cities of al-Nasiriyah and al-'Amarah. The sources said that the tyrant's forces recently encircled an area in al-Ahwar extending from north of al-Nasiriyah to al-'Amarah and were later joined by a tank unit from al-Basrah in preparation for the attack. Tens of thousands of our people had fled to this area to escape the massacre perpetrated by the tyrant and his soldiers in the south.

The sources stressed that the defeated regime's repeated claims of foreign infiltration across the eastern border and of Iranian military intervention seek to conceal the tyrant's forces military moves, divert attention from the conflict's domestic nature, and hold foreign parties responsible.

The sources said that these moves are also aimed at rekindling regional tension, which the crippled regime always tries to do whenever it believes the domestic crisis is about to explode. The sources warned of a new massacre that will be perpetrated by the bloody regime's forces in the south.

Tehran Reports Scattered Clashes, Executions

LD0106161591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] In the course of clashes during the past 48 hours between opposition and Ba'thist forces in the Iraqi town of al-'Amarah, a group of Ba'thist soldiers were killed. An al-'Amarah resident, who arrived in Iran last night via Dasht-e Azadegan, stated this in an interview with an IRNA reporter. He said: In the course of the clash, a considerable quantity of the Ba'thist forces' military equipment was taken as booty.

He asserted that scattered clashes between the people and government forces are continuing in parts of southern Iraq, especially in Maysan province. He added: So far, a number of the Muslim people of Iraq have been executed by firing squad by the Iraqi Republican Guard on the charge of opposing Saddam's regime.

1 Million Seek Refuge in Southern Marshes

LD0106192191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] According to IRNA, scattered clashes between the people and government forces are continuing in parts of southern Iraq, especially in Maysan province. Iraqi Republican Guard forces are continuing to arrest and execute people.

The same report, citing Muhammad Salih, an Iraqi refugee who arrived in Iran last night via the Arvand river, states: In order to arrest opposition forces in the south, the Iraqi regime has embarked on the destruction of villages in the region. He spoke of the presence of 1 million Iraqi refugees in the marshes of southern Iraq and added: Ba'thist forces have destroyed the villages in the region with the aim of carrying out an extensive suppression of the people in the south.

Al-Hakim Says Saddam on 'Annihilation Campaign'

NC0506083591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text of message from Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar: Greetings. We have received an urgent appeal for aid based on reliable reports from Iraq that Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, has ordered a new annihilation campaign in the al-Ahwar area. A number of Iraqi armored and artillery units have begun to surround the area. Al-Nasiriyah lies west of this area, (?Ghfarnah al-'Uzayr) to its east, al-Basrah to the south, and al-'Amarah to the north. This military operation, which is codenamed al-Adghal, is similar to the annihilation campaign in which chemical weapons were used by the Iraqi regime against Kurds late in August 1988.

We received this appeal following reports that the Iraqi reigme is in the process of exterminating dozens of villages and will not hesitate to annihilate the people of the south to take its revenge on the popular revolution.

Rebel Radio Reports Attacks by Regime in South

NC0206064191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Our rebellious people continue to wage resistance and jihad operations against the Saddamist regime's positions in the southern parts of the country. Our revolutionaries recently executed two of the criminal Saddamist party members in al-Basrah.

As operations continue against the tyrant regime, the regime's henchmen are engaged in cowardly attacks on

southern villages and towns in an attempt to stop the operations of our revolutionary heroes. The regime recently destroyed the villages surrounding the marshland in an attempt to circle the revolutionary squads and exterminate the refugees who fled from from their homes to the marshland to escape the brutal Saddamist shelling. One million people are estimated to have taken refuge in the marshland so far.

Regime Warplanes Bomb in al-Nasiriyah Region

NC0506065391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Persisting in its brutal crimes against our rebellious people, warplanes of the criminal regime in Baghdad have bombarded the Hawr al-Hammar area in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. This heinous crime left many people, including women, children, and elderly people, dead or injured. It is worth noting that during the brutal bombardment, members of an International Red Cross were present and saw for themselves the crime taking place.

Protests in Zakho; Barzani Not Seen Recently

NC0306143191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Shootings have been reported in Irbil. Meanwhile, hundreds of Kurds demonstrated yesterday in Zakho, calling on coalition troops not to withdraw from the area. UN officials have described the developments in Kurdistan as disturbing, particularly in light of the apparent lack of progress in the negotiations between Kurdish leaders and the tyrant's regime.

The Kurdish delegation led by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, has not been seen since it left a Baghdad hotel nine days ago.

North Towns Evacuated; KDP Warns of 'Civil War'

NC0406164391 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 4 Jun 91

[By Yurtsay Mihcioglu]

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, June 4 (AFP)—Northern Iraqi towns and villages have been totally evacuated by Iraqi police and officials after six Iraqis were killed by Kurdish refugees, while a Kurdish leader in the region said a "civil war" would break out if Baghdad and Kurdish leaders fail to reach a political agreement.

In Zakho, 15 kilometres from the Turkish border, the local mayor as well as about 50 Iraqi policemen fled "for fear of being attacked en masse" by incoming Kurdish refugees, American and Kurdish sources said.

Iraqi officials and police had remained in the region to maintain order in accord with the allied "Operation Provide Comfort" and the United Nations, which established a security zone protected by Western forces in northern Iraq.

Non-armed Kurdish forces and U.N. troops are to jointly control Zakho and other towns in the region, U.S. and Kurdish sources said.

The possible withdrawal of allied forces from the region has also created anxiety among the Kurdish refugees, fearing reprisals by the Iraqi army. The Iraqi army reportedly sent tanks into the Kurdish city of al-Sulaymaniyah after gun battles between Iraqi police and Kurdish rebels, killing undetermined numbers on both sides.

Meanwhile, Nechervan Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said a "civil war" could break out failing an accord between Kurdish leaders and the Iraqi government in Baghdad.

Mr. Barzani, the 25-year-old nephew of KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani, told AFP from the party's temporary headquarters in the Iraqi-controlled town of Sardawa that an agreement must be reached on the "definition of boundaries of an autonomous Kurdistan" in northern Iraq.

Mr. Barzani, a member of the KDP's executive committee, said failure to reach an agreement would lead to a "popular uprising" by Kurds similar to those that occurred in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil last week when it was announced that his uncle Mas'ud had returned from negotiations in Baghdad with "empty hands."

The six murders of Iraqis, including two members of Iraq's ruling Ba'th party, occurred Sunday in violent incidents in three towns in northern Iraqi.

A U.S. Army lieutenant said here Tuesday that without the departure of the Iraqi police and officials "even worse" incidents would have occurred with the massive influx of Kurds.

Shamir Discusses Bush Letter, Peace Process

TA0406050691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jun 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Makovsky, Asher Wallfish, and Allison Kaplan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Prime Minister Shamir denied that Bush in his letter had invited the prime minister to confer with him on the conference.

Shamir said, "in the letter, the president is attempting to explain the need and the rationale of the positions of the U.S., so he can persuade the participants in the conference to accept the American view."

The prime minister insisted, "the peace process is not stuck." He also counseled, "I don't think we have patience. We want everything to run ahead. I understand this, but there are no short cuts. Things are complicated."

After the Knesset panel session, Shamir told reporters that Bush had referred to Israeli settlement operations in the territories "but not in a prominent way."

Shamir agreed to one reporter's comment that a summit meeting in Washington would not be feasible before the parties involved had all agreed on the modalities.

The premier said: "So far we have made one important achievement. We have determined Israel's interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, even if not everybody agrees to our interpretation."

(Shamir holds that the withdrawal from Sinai under the accords with Egypt fulfills the calls for withdrawal in Resolution 242 in its entirety, thus making no further withdrawals on other fronts necessary.)

He dismissed media reports from Washington that his director-general, Yosi Ben-Aharon, had incensed Secretary Baker's aides last week when he corrected their previous assumptions over what Shamir had agreed to in his tete-a-tete with Baker.

"Those reports are without foundation," Shamir said. "Whatever Ben-Aharon said in Washington, he said with my approval. There is no contradiction between what I said here to Baker and what he said there to Baker's aides."

He said that the U.S. would not be satisfied with the participation of the European Community in a regional conference solely with observer status. The exact form of EC participation was currently being worked out, he said, and so was the form of economic arrangement between Israel and the EC, ready for 1992.

Committee members felt Shamir was hinting at possible linkage between the two discussions (taking place with Foreign Minister David Levi in Brussels).

Shamir said that in Secretary Baker's fourth visit he had been more insistent than ever before on UN participation at a Middle East conference. "We told him there is no precedent for that. The UN was not at Camp David and it did not ratify the accords. We would agree that the agreements emerging from a regional conference be deposited with the UN, and we would ask for UN ratification. But Baker wants more than that," Shamir said.

He said the UN had been called in before to obtain a cease-fire or a separation of forces but not to take part in diplomatic negotiations. [passage omitted]

Accepts Invitation to Meeting

TA0406170791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Sources close to the prime minister said this evening that the Israeli response to the message received by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from the U.S. President will leave room for continuing peace efforts. Those sources told our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor that, in his response, Mr. Shamir will express Israel's readiness to comply with President Bush's invitation to hold a meeting that will include the leaders of the Arab states and Israel.

The sources added that Mr. Shamir will display flexibility in the Israeli position with regard to UN participation in the peace efforts, in that he will propose that the UN secretary general be briefed on the progress of the direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab delegations. The sources stressed that Israel still adheres to its opposition to considering the meetings of the peace conference as continuous meetings.

Shamir Comments on Jordanian, Syrian Leaders

TA0406100491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jun 91 p A5

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Coming out of yesterday's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Prime Minister Shamir refused either to confirm or deny reports that Israeli figures had held meetings with King Husayn. In the committee meeting, Shamir said that Husayn's interview to the French LE POINT was granted three weeks earlier.

According to him, the interview is only a theoretical statement regarding the need to hold an encounter with Israeli leaders, but it contains no practical proposal with respect to his own participation in such an encounter. "Husayn has made remarks of this nature in the past," said Shamir. [passage omitted]

He stressed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is thinking in terms of a comprehensive withdrawal from more than the Golan Heights and is insisting on an international conference under UN aegis. At the same

time, al-Asad is striving to improve ties with the United States in order to receive financial aid from the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Shamir briefed the committee on the North Korean shipments of nonconventional weapons to Syria, as well as the negotiations for a major arms deal between Syria and the Soviet Union. Referring to Jordan, Shamir said that it is encountering numerous difficulties in the wake of its stands during the Gulf war.

He stressed that Jordan needs financial assistance from every available source, and it expects major assistance from the United States and Saudi Arabia. According to Shamir, Jordan is not ready to take part in any peace promoting conference if Syria and the PLO do not participate. At the same time, Jordan approves of being represented by a Camp-David-style Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the conference, although it has not received the PLO's consent yet. [passage omitted]

Also addressing the committee, Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, the Labor Party chairman, said that we should tell Baker not to invest too much effort in convincing Syria to attend peace negotiations. As for Jordan, Peres said that Husayn will not come to negotiations without an international opening. He faulted the government for the absence of a plan to promote peace. [passage omitted]

Shamir Assails Calls for Compromise on Territories

TA0506061791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to religious teachers in Tel Aviv on 4 June—recorded]

[Text] I must say that as long as the Arab states look for ways to bypass direct negotiations, whether by involving the United Nations or through an international conference, it will be a sign that they have not yet decided to end the conflict, to recognize Israel, to get used to the idea of its existence, or to reach a peace settlement with the State of Israel. Up to this moment, the expected turning point has not come, and our neighbors still insist on a continuing status for the international body and for it to be institutionalized.

The extent of concessions we made when we agreed that the sovereignty of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be an issue for negotiations, despite our deep belief that those areas are an organic part of Eretz Yisra'el, the state of the Jewish people, must be appreciated. [applause]

We agreed that those issues would be discussed in negotiations, since we are committed to that in the Camp David Accords, and Israel always stands by its commitments. Those who call on us to compromise on that issue would never consider for even one moment handing over their vital interests, including a single inch of their land, to any international forum. That is a demand made only of Israel. [applause]

Shamir Interviewed About Policy on Ethiopia

TA0206104291 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 2 Jun 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Rahamim El'azar on Qol Yisra'el's Amharic-language program on 1 June 1991]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Q: It turns out that there are still Jews remaining in Ethiopia. Is there a way to get them out of there?

A: We will get them out. Just as we have taken out all the Jews thus far, we will also get them out. After all, you remember as well as I do the discussions and the arguments, the criticisms of us and the accusations that we are not doing anything, that this is government is altogether indifferent to the suffering of the families. And now, they have all come and I have no doubt that those others will come too.

Q: What was the problem? How was the Ethiopian administration on the issue of getting all the Jews out of there?

A: There were great difficulties. The Ethiopian administration, I have to say, was not particularly interested in the matter of getting the Jews out. They had other interests that were much more important to them. The Ethiopian government was under siege, perpetually fighting for the unity of Ethiopia—as they refer to it—and for power, and they waited for help from us to fight their war. When we would say that we were interested in the Jews coming to Israel, they would get angry (and say) "that's the only thing that interests you." And sometimes they didn't want to hear it, but we forced them to listen.

Q: They repeatedly claimed that Israel came to Ethiopia only because of the Jews. Now that the Jews have come out, does Israel have any interest in Ethiopia?

A: We are interested in Ethiopia just as we are interested in other countries in Africa, and aside from that, Ethiopia is one of the important countries in Africa. It is not under the full influence of the Arabs; it is today a country which must determine its own way. It was also liberated from the strong influence of the Soviets and Ethiopia is important. It is the only non-Arab country which lies on the Red Sea and we are interested in maintaining good relations, and even in cooperating with them.

Q: How do you see the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel?

A: Of course, this is now the main problem. We must see to it that the absorption moves faster than it has until now and that it will be more efficient and easier. I think that much experience has been gained over the years and

this must now be applied in order to faster—and better—absorb the people who have now come. I hope that we will not encounter any particular difficulties. [passage omitted]

Q: In your speech at the Knesset, you said that "Operation Solomon" has ended, but has not been completed. Were you also referring to those known as Falas mora [as received], who were once Jews, but somehow left the Jewish fold? What do you intend to do about this matter?

A: I don't want to decide this matter by myself. We are going to start consultations on this matter in the next few days; we will hear the positions of all those who have something to say on this matter and we will decide. In any case, the attitude is that whoever wants to be a Jew must find his way to the land of Israel.

Levi Leaves for Paris, May Meet With Baker

TA0306080991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi may meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Europe this week. The minister made this observation before he left for a four-day visit to Paris this morning.

The foreign minister is scheduled to meet with the French president and the troika to discuss Europe's role in the peace process.

Levi Calls on Egypt To End Stalemate in Relations

TA0506055091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has called on Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to act among the Arab states to bring about the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri reports from Cairo that, in a message transmitted at the end of last week by Efrayim Dowek, Israel's ambassador in Cairo, Levi welcomed the new Egyptian foreign minister to his new post and stressed the need for Egypt to end the period of stalemate in its relations with Israel. If Egypt were to take actions to do this, it would encourage other Arab states to enter into direct talks with Israel.

Protest Filed After Egypt Returns Levi Letter

TA0506065991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 91 pp 1, 14

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and correspondent in Egypt Smadar Peri]

[Text] A diplomatic incident between Israel and Egypt:

A letter Foreign Minister David Levi sent to his [former] Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, congratulating him on his appointment as Arab League secretary general, was returned to Jerusalem by the Egyptian minister unopened.

Israel protested Egypt's conduct in this incident, as well as on other occasions, which indicate a worsening of the ties between Jerusalem and Cairo.

Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem two days ago. David Sultan, Foreign Ministry assistant director general on Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean affairs, presented the Egyptian ambassador with a series of issues of which Israel takes a grave view, and which stand in contradiction to Egypt's commitment to its peace agreement with Israel.

The Egyptian ambassador said he was surprised to hear that the letter was returned to Jerusalem, and he promised to deliver the message he was given to Cairo.

The protest given to Basyuni says that there has recently been an exacerbation of remarks and publications in Egyptian media against Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the State of Israel, which amount to incitement against Israel.

Our correspondent Smadar Peri adds that Israel's Ambassador in Egypt Efrayim Doweq has been asked to file an official complaint with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the wave of harsh attacks against the State of Israel and the blunt personal attacks against Prime Minister Shamir published recently in Egypt's establishment newspapers and official dailies.

Minister Qatzav on Rejection of UN, EC Role

TA0406065091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav.

[Qatzav] Good morning.

[Dan] If indeed the prime minister does not accept George Bush's demands—even if he is not the only one, even if the Syrian president also rejects them—he will be party to the obstruction of the political process.

[Qatzav] We believe in the political process. We believe that those aspects of the political process that we consider realistic and viable should be advanced. Unfortunately, from time to time and following each visit, the Americans come to the Israeli Government with demands for additional concessions, while our enemies have so far made no concessions nor have they taken any initiative. We, however, believe that if we persist and if the United States backs us, we will be able to progress toward some sort of an arrangement.

[Friedman] Minister Qatzav, now that we are somewhat removed from the Baker initiative and the shuttle between the different Arab capitals, could you please explain to us the following: The whole issue of the

regional conference, at least from Israel's point of view, is a symbolic matter. Therefore, the concessions are more of a gesture and not so much a matter of principle. It is clear to all that Israel is and has been demanding that the talks be direct. What is the point, therefore, of opposing a symbolic UN representative at the meetings, when all that is being discussed at this stage is symbolic?

[Qatzav] Look, I believe that if the United Nations or Europe were part of the Camp David talks....

[Friedman, interrupting] This is not at all similar to the Camp David talks. In question now is a conference at which some representatives will make opening speeches, after which they will all go home.

[Qatzav] It will not be like that. There is no guarantee that it will be like that. On the contrary, we know that the United Nations will not sit idly by. I can present a counterquestion: If the role is so symbolic, what is so essential about their participation?

[Dan] It is essential because the other side is insisting on it, and perhaps it would be worthwhile to find some kind of compromise formula that would say: Let us have a symbolic UN representative who will have no part in the talks. What is so terrible about that? Why not?

[Qatzav] With all due respect for the consideration and understanding shown for the other side's position, those on the other side are not naive. They are aware of the important part the United Nations and Europe can play in such discussions. Europe and the United Nations have traditionally maintained anti-Israeli positions. They have made their positions known. They favor the establishment of a Palestinian state and Israel's total withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. We cannot allow Europe or the United Nations to take part in any of this, in view of their hostile stands toward Israel during this whole move. Their presence could only pose difficulties. If it is so unimportant, let them give way, not insist on it, and allow direct negotiations between us and the Arabs. This way we would be able to hold quiet negotiations, free of pressure, without pushing Israel into a corner.

You must understand that while the United States does not support Israel's stands, it is at least objective. The USSR will be a part of the process anyway, and it has a well-known anti-Israeli stand. If we add Europe and the United Nations, Israel will be left alone and isolated in the face of this great force, which could only make the processes difficult. It could make the Arab stands more extreme. We want to reach a compromise.

[Friedman] That is clear, but there is another argument, presented by ministers who hold a more right-wing view than yours, which says that this whole conference, in principle, is dangerous and problematic. Therefore, if the Soviet Union takes part in the conference, which for us is but an opening stage, a situation might emerge in which Israel is pressured and finds itself in the minority. Why go to such a conference at all?

[Qatzav] This is precisely part of the compromise that the Israeli Government has accepted and will go along with. We accept the auspices of the two superpowers. The two superpowers understand that they will not be involved in the talks. There will be an opening with the participation of all the sides. Eventually, however, negotiations will be direct and bilateral. It is impossible to hold multilateral or indirect negotiations. I believe that this is the desirable kind of negotiations, and this procedure must finally be given a chance. The Arab countries, with the backing of the international community, have rejected the Israeli Government's initiatives time after time. Let us try this move for once.

Had we tried the Israeli Government initiative from 10 years ago for a five-year autonomy in Judaea and Samaria, today we would have been 10 years past that. Unfortunately, it was rejected. I believe that this time, we can start a move. Serious progress has been made on procedural issues and arrangements for negotiations between us and the Arabs. There is no need to make these two points, which in our eyes are not at all procedural but rather very substantial, because we believe they can definitely make the Arab stand become even more extreme.... [changes thought] What is so important....

[Dan, interrupting] Mr. Qatzav, with full understanding for our stands, it seems that President Bush is becoming impatient, and there is talk of warnings to anyone who may refuse or who may give a negative reply to his letter. Do the steps the United States might take not deter us at all?

[Qatzav] It would be very unfortunate if we were to make decisions we believe could endanger our security out of fear of some external threat. It would be absurd if the State of Israel were to become the only country to pay a price for the Gulf war. After the missile attacks on us, they are now making threats. It would be ridiculous from a historical perspective. Look, Syria, which has become one of the most extreme countries in its hostility toward Israel, is receiving massive U.S. aid, is buying missiles, and currently has more firepower than Iraq had before the Gulf war started. Israel asks: Should we surrender out of fear of U.S. threats? I believe that when it comes to Israel's existence and security, the Israeli Government alone, with our full understanding of and love for the Americans, must make the decisions. If our impression is that the proposals indeed endanger us, we will have to reject them.

[Dan] Minister Qatzav, thank you.

[Qatzav] Thank you.

EC Participation Not Equal to U.S., USSR

TA0506104991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Report by Eldad Beck in Paris]

[Text] One of the obstacles to the convening of a peace conference was lifted this morning in Paris. Israel agreed to EC participation in the peace conference alongside the United States and the USSR, but not on an equal footing. The current EC president will participate in the opening session of the conference with a status worked out specifically for the Europeans, the status of participant. Afterward, the Europeans will participate in the subcommittees dealing with the economic development of the Middle East. The European troika ministers promised Foreign Minister David Levi that Europe's participation would be based on the principles of the negotiations to be worked out by Secretary Baker. That will also be the case with UN participation. The Europeans, like the two superpowers, will not be able to intervene in the direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

[Begin Levi recording] I was authorized to study the question of EC participation on the opening conference. There will be no intervention. It was agreed that their participation in the opening conference will be based on the principles to be worked out by Mr. Baker. We also discussed bilateral issues between Israel and Europe. I am returning satisfied with our talks. [end recording]

Beyond the agreement on European participation in the peace conference, David Levi and the EC troika also agreed to speed up the treatment of Israeli requests to lift restrictions on exports to Europe. Committees of experts will convene next month to deal with the issue. In reference to Israeli involvement in the European economy, the troika ministers agreed in principle to the idea, but it will depend on progress in the negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. A third agreement reached this morning was the granting of special diplomatic status to an EC envy who will deal with extending humanitarian aid to residents of the territories. The practical details of the mission will be worked out soon in talks in Israel.

PLO Reportedly To Stay Out of Joint Delegation

TA0306091291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jun 91 p A2

[Report by Washington correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Text] The PLO has informed the Soviet Union that it will agree to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to a regional conference that does not include its own representatives, the press officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington contends.

Leonid Dobrokotov told Rut Yaron, his counterpart at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, that at the beginning of last week he saw a cable from the Soviet Embassy in Damascus summing up a meeting between Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO's "foreign minister," and a Soviet diplomat.

According to Dobrokotov, Qaddumi told the Soviet diplomat in Damascus that the PLO wants to be part of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. If, however, it emerges that its participation would torpedo the talks, the PLO would be willing to agree to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include its own representatives.

These facts are included in a report sent by the Israeli Embassy in Washington to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

According to Dobrokotov, Egypt is believed to be initiating a summit meeting of the leaders of the Arab states to discuss the peace process and the post-Gulf war situation. Syria's fears of being "left out" are believed to be behind its increased involvement in the Palestinian issue and its rapprochement with the PLO.

The report from the Israeli Embassy in Washington adds that in talks with Soviet and European diplomats, the Syrians describe the settlements as their No. 2 problem with Israel, immediately after the question of the Golan Heights.

[A report by Hanan Shal'in and ITIM on page A3 of the same paper quotes Sa'id Kan'an, a pro-PLO businessman from Nabulus, as saying: "We would rather take part in the talks of the Palestinian military delegation, but if there is no other choice, we will agree to a joint PLO-Jordanian delegation." Kan'an goes on to say that the PLO's consent stems from the fact that "it does not want to be an obstacle to the promotion of the peace process, and opposition to a joint delegation would be used as an excuse by the Shamir government." Kan'an concludes: "We favor a confederation with Jordan, but only after the independent Palestinian state has been established."

[On the other hand, Palestinians in the Bethlehem area said that a joint delegation "constitutes an attempt to shove the Palestinian leadership aside, as was the case in the Camp David accords, when the future of the Palestinians was decided in talks between the Israelis and Egypt."]

Soviet Diplomats Say Jordan in 'Syria's Hands'

TA0406115791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Soviet diplomats believe that Jordan is completely in Syria's hands in everything related to the political process and that, at this stage, Syria has no intention of entering negotiations with Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this assessment was made by a Soviet diplomat, and Jerusalem has been briefed on this.

The Soviet diplomat added that the Syrians are using various excuses to justify their refusal to join the political process with Israel.

Air Raid Against Targets in Lebanon Confirmed

TA0506052691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0519 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Report by military affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Excerpt] The terrorist bases attacked around midnight last night by Air Force planes are situated near Lib'a, southeast of Sidon. The targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman announced.

The targets hit belong to Ahmad Jibril's organization and are used as a base for departures for attacks against Israel. According to foreign news agency reports, four planes participated in the night raid. There are so far no reports of casualties in the attack. [passage omitted]

Fourth Air Raid in Two Days Reported

TA0506092191

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 5 June reports that "correspondents in southern Lebanon have just reported that Israeli Air Force planes continued to attack terrorist bases in the area today. They said that 22 people were killed and 82 were wounded in the four attacks during the past two days."

Knesset Members See 'Huge' Building Drive in Gaza

TA0306152191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] 'Oded Zucker and Hayim Oron disclosed that the Construction and Housing Ministry has also started a huge building drive in the Qatif block in the Gaza District. They said the ministry has started on work to add 2,000 housing units, which mean an addition of at least 10,000 people in an area populated by 3,000 settlers. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the two MK's demanded that the prime minister immediately stop the building in the Qatif block because there is no consensus among Israelis about the Gaza District.

Steady Growth of Qatif Settlements Asserted

TA0306180091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Responding to the claims made by Knesset Members 'Oded Zucker and Hayim Oron about a massive construction drive in the Qatif bloc, Avi Farhan, a settlement leader there, said that settlement expansion in the area continues at a steady rate of 10 to 15 percent annually. Three new settlements were established in recent years. Avi Farhan added that this was according to a plan that was already formulated eight years ago.

Closure of Two West Bank Universities Extended

TA0106165091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria yesterday extended by three months the closure decrees imposed on the universities of al-Najah [in Nabulus] and Bi'r Zayt [in Bethlehem]. At the same time, security sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the authorities intend to gradually allow the renewal of studies in higher education institutes. The sources noted that Hebron University was recently given such permission, and studies will resume there within the next few days.

Ground Forces Commander's Powers Increased

TA0406141891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jun 91 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, yesterday ordered that the powers of the Ground Forces Command [GFC] be greatly strengthened, thereby downgrading the position of the chief officers of the four corps—armored, infantry, engineering, and artillery.

Most of the recommendations of Major General 'Imanu'el Seqel, the GFC commander, were adopted. The GFC will be given many of the powers previously held by the Training Branch, which will cease to exist, as well as responsibility for organization and positions that was taken from the Planning Branch.

The leading officers in the four corps will all be transferred to GFC headquarters in the south. Their professional authority during peace time, as well as during a state of emergency, will remain intact, but the GFC commander will take over their organizational and command duties, which includes command of training bases.

Military sources said the change will strengthen the GFC, make work more efficient, prevent duplications and complications, and save several dozen jobs in the career army.

IDF To Seek Budget Increase To Counter Threats

TA0306081491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be seeking a perennial NIS [new Israeli shekel] 500 million budget addition, beginning next year, to finance the development of projects enhancing Israel's capability to handle threats posed by surface-to-surface missiles and non-conventional weapons, informed sources indicated yesterday.

The sources said that despite the deep cuts the IDF has made and is planning for the future, without a budget increase, the army would not have sufficient funding to

ensure that in five years it would have the technology needed to defend the country against advance weaponry.

The army will also seek assurances that its budget will remain stable over the next few years. During the past 10 years, the IDF's budget has undergone significant cuts, from approximately $7 billion in 1981 to $5.9 billion in 1991. In terms of GDP [gross domestic product], defense consumption dropped from some 14 percent of GDP in 1981 to some 10 percent, close to the percentage in the U.S. [passage omitted]

Investments Beyond Green Line Tripled in 1990

TA0306103991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 91 p C8

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Excerpt] According to a recently released report, the Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center tripled the sum of investments it approved beyond the Green Line in 1990, which totaled $36.3 million.

Last year, the Investment Center's administration approved 32 industrial projects, almost half of them in the Barqan industrial zone near Ari'el, compared with the 28 projects it approved in 1989 valued at $13 million.

The report further reveals that $146.3 million were invested beyond the Green Line from 1986 to 1990: $84.7 million in industry, $54.5 million in rental industrial buildings, and $7.1 million in tourism. In 1990 alone, $26.1 million were invested beyond the Green Line, mostly in industries. [passage omitted]

Leaders Urged To Mistrust Husayn's 'Fickleness'

TA0406155991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jun 91 p A14

[Commentary by Shmu'el Schnitzer: "Husayn's Latest Word"]

[Text] All those who rushed to clean the red carpet following King Husayn's interview with the French publication were oblivious of the region we inhabit and of the Jordanian ruler's own special contribution to the inconsequential and inconsistent atmosphere that characterizes our region. In the Middle East neither the spoken nor the written word has the same meaning it does in the so-called western, or civilized, or rational world. A man does not say what he thinks, or believes, or intends to do. He says what he deems desirable, right, or worthwhile at any given moment. In two days or two weeks, he will say the very opposite—not because his stand has changed in the meantime, but because his audience, or the public at which he had directed his observations or acts, has changed.

This applies to most of the Arab rulers, and it is sevenfold true of declarations made by Jordan's King Husayn. Of the 10 measures of fickleness given to the Middle East, he took nine. The man, who was alternately the Palestinians' protector and their most cruel oppressor; the embodiment of pro-Western statesmanship in the region and the chief wooer of the Soviet Union (in its previous incarnation); al-Nasir's self-avowed adversary and ally; Saudi Arabia's protege and foe; Saddam Husayn's secret supporter and post-failure jilter; the "West Bank's" abandoner and adopter; a bearded Islamic fundamentalist and a clean-shaved "progressive" ruler—this man has, throughout the years, acquired the reputation of a talented survivor, as well as a political weather vane turning with every breeze.

He has embraced no position that he did not abandon later; he has fiercely fought no enemy with whom he did not afterwards seek reconciliation at the first opportunity. Anyone building hopes on his latest temporary position—which he announced to a foreign journalist but which he has not allowed to be published in his country—may find himself leaning on a broken reed.

The Jordanian foreign minister knew what he was saying when he told REUTER in Amman that "the peace process and the path toward an agreement are much more serious matters than a statement here and there." He would not have permitted himself such contemptuous remarks about his king's political declaration had he not known that the issue at stake was a meaningless pronouncement without practical intentions. He is familiar with the geographical region in which Jordan is situated and with the degree of the king's consistency.

It is a shame that the same cannot be said about the Israeli statesmen, who rejoiced at Husayn's revolutionary statement, immediately making a comparison with al-Sadat. They forgot the vast difference between the forceful and courageous Egyptian president and the king, who personifies all the indecisiveness of a man who has spent his life wavering, all of whose decisions have been erroneous and destructive.

Paper Faults Shamir Timing in Response to Husayn

TA0306115891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jun 91 p A16

[Editorial: "What Does Husayn Mean?"]

[Text] If Menahem Begin were still prime minister and King Husayn were quoted as saying what he has said to the French magazine LE POINT, we could have expected a breathtaking response, something along the lines of: Ahalan wasahalan [Arabic for welcome], I will be waiting for you at the Allenby Bridge tomorrow morning. But King Husayn's remarks that the time has come to lift the taboo on direct and public meetings with Israel came at a time when Yitzhaq Shamir is prime minister. Mr. Shamir does not react quickly, even when such a response may be to his or Israel's benefit. In some cases, timing and expedience are of the essence, and diplomatic momentum is one of them.

Foreign Minister David Levi, either because he felt better about the opportunity that had just been created or because he got to a microphone sooner, responded to

Husayn's proposal. Other spokesmen in the prime minister's vicinity were more cautious and said that they would have to check what the Jordanian king meant.

Meanwhile, conjectures began to spew out of Amman. Political sources noted that the king did not say anything new, that the Jordanian position remains unchanged. In other words, not only the Jordanian position, but also the king's modus operandi remain unchanged: a spot of this, a dash of that; a spot of peace, a dash of war; a spot of Bush, a dash of Saddam or al-Asad; it all depends.

Mr. Shamir should have grabbed onto "it all depends" at once. Then we would have known whether the king meant what he said or, in other words, whether he is planning a stunt a la al-Sadat or is once again taking the whole world for a ride. An unequivocal and immediate Israeli response would have exposed his intentions. In any event, Israel would have come to no harm. Because of Jerusalem's unnecessary procrastination, we may once again not learn his true intentions.

Shamir's Motivations in Rejecting UN Questioned

TA0506100091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Bush Is Waiting for Shamir"]

[Text] Whether we like it or not, the United Nations is no longer an insignificant organization. Without it, the United States would not have launched the Gulf war. Without it, we would not have been rid, and for a low price, of the potential Iraqi threat.

Given these conditions, how can the U.S. President give up on a symbolic presence of a UN representative in the long-awaited conference? Why does Yitzhaq Shamir insist on saying "nyet" to Bush?

In accordance with Israel's demand, Bush has agreed that the conference will not be able to force solutions or mediate between the sides. He has accepted the view that the PLO will not take part in it, and that its goal is to serve as a starting point for direct negotiations, "to which there is no alternative," as he wrote to Shamir in his letter.

What, then, is Shamir afraid of? Perhaps he is afraid of his right wing, which threatens to slam the door on him if he makes another concession?

We have news for the prime minister. First, most of the public would be relieved if the zealous right-wing quits. Second, the government will not fall in that case, because the left will support it.

With this in mind, there is a reason for the question of whether Shamir's "nyet" is not anchored in his unwillingness to enter any kind of negotiations, with the United Nations or without it.

Israeli Air Raid on Palestinian Base Reported

NC0506051391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Israeli military aircraft attacked a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] military base near Kafr Falus at 2345 yesterday. At least one PFLP-GC fighter was wounded in the raid.

Israeli aircraft carried out reconnaissance flight over southern Lebanon last night, focusing on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps and the Kafr Falus front.

In the Tyre region, Palestinian antiaircraft guns in the al-Rashidiyah camp opened fire on the Israeli aircraft, which were flying at high altitude.

The PLO has mobilized its ranks and called on Palestinian organizations to be on maximum alert in anticipation of a large-scale Israeli military operation.

Air Activity Over Tyre, Sidon

NC0506110191 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, June 5 (AFP)—Israeli aircraft buzzed this southern port Wednesday, sowing panic among residents one day after 12 people were killed and 60 wounded—including schoolchildren—in air raids that destroyed four Palestinian bases.

Merchants shuttered their shops as the rumbling of the planes was heard over Sidon and people scrambled for safety, correspondents said.

They also reported intensive Israeli overflights in the Tyre region, 40 kilometers (25 miles) further south.

Sidon and Tyre are home to several hundred thousand Palestinians, including 10,000 guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A definitive Palestinian toll put the number of casualties in Tuesday's Israeli strikes at 12 dead and 60 wounded. At least 12 schoolchildren were among those injured.

Three successive waves of attacks early Tuesday destroyed bases of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) east of Sidon.

A position held by the extremist PLO dissident Fatah Revolutionary Council of dissident guerrilla leader Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] was also flattened.

Israeli planes returned to southern Lebanon late Tuesday, attacking a position held by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Palestinian leaders linked the raids—the heaviest since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982—to the recently signed "brotherhood and cooperation treaty" between Syria and Lebanon.

Israel has denounced the accord, fearing it will bolster Syrian military strength near the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Karami Denounces Raids

NC0406140991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has denounced the recent Israeli raids and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility for deterring Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The prime minister said Israeli recognizes no limits on its behavior. It is trying to cause problems to exacerbate the situation in the south and to block Resolution 425's implementation.

Protest Made to UN

NC0506065091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] It has been announced in New York that Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent UN delegate, has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he condemns and expresses his regret over the Israeli raids. The letter says that this aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of international laws and norms. He adds that the Lebanese Government calls on the UN Security Council permanent member states to adopt effective measures to stop the Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty. The letter emphasizes the need for the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 425.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has expressed his dissatisfaction of Israel's violation of Lebanese sovereignty and the human losses.

Makkawi sent a second letter following yesterday's raids in which he said that the Lebanese Government reserves the right to call for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the serious situation resulting from the continuation of Israeli acts of aggression in the south.

'Arafat Spokesman Comments on Israeli Raids

NC0406174291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Zayd Wahbah, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political representative in Lebanon, has stated that he expects Israel to carry out a large-scale military operation in the south in a bid to undermine the Lebanese national accord process and the positive developments in Lebanese-Palestinian relations. Wahbah told REUTER that

Israel is massing ground forces and carrying out atypical movements in the air and at sea. He did not give any details. [passage omitted]

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] said in a statement that the Israeli air raids aim to keep Lebanon unsettled and all forces in Lebanon confused at a time when the Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian agreement is giving rise to new political conditions.

FRC Spokesman Comments

NC0406165091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Walid Khalid, spokesman for Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], has said that Israel is trying to use its raids to create a new situation in a bid to block the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and Resolution 425. He added that the raids are also intended to disrupt Lebanese-Palestinian relations and to deal a blow to the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Lebanese Commander Cited on Army Deployment

JN0206144291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] General Emile Lahhud, commander of the Lebanese Army, has emphasized the Army's determination to deploy in southern Lebanon as a first step toward implementing Security Council Resolution 425 and liberating southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupation.

In an interview with the monthly magazine AL-JAYSH, General Lahhud added: Our success in the south hinges on reinforcing our military forces and the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy.

He added: We have sent new forces to Tyre so as to deploy them shortly in the area where the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon are active, as a necessary step along the path of enforcing Resolution 425. Occasional attempts at obstruction, he said, will only enhance our determination and resolve to press ahead with the national mission, whatever the sacrifices.

Commentary Views Goals of Israeli Activities

NC0406205291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Israeli aggression such as the one that took place yesterday is nothing new. What is different about yesterday's aggression was its timing and implications. It reflected a desire to obstruct the process of peace and salvation and indicated that the achievements Lebanon has made do not suit Israel's goals and ambitions. The fact that the aggression coincided with the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Lebanese-Syrian brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty sheds light on Israel's approach. It also reveals how far the treaty has contributed to Lebanon's immunity, strength, and ability to confront challenges and positively influence the international community to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and bring about a full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south and western al- Biqa' so as to enable the legitimate authority to deploy the Army along side the UN Interim Force in Lebanon up to the internationally recognized borders.

The new aggression is also tied to Israel's current attempts to obstruct the active international efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis through an international conference that can achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The important point is that aggression and threats will not weaken Lebanon nor will they affect the peace and salvation process. Lebanon now possesses internal immunity and enjoys Arab and international support. Everyone supports the complete implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. Yesterday's exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty only strengthens its ability to confront challenges and its confidence in the future. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Protests Israeli Settlements in Golan

JN0406134391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] New York—Syria informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday that Israel's continued settlement-building in the occupied Arab territories at a time when the international community is exerting concerted efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict constitutes a grave violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, especially item 39 of this convention, as well as of Security Council Resolutions 465 of 1980 and 497 of 1981, both of which stipulate that Israel's decision to impose its own laws on the occupied Golan Heights is null and void and bears no legal significance whatsoever.

Syria's UN Representative Diya'allah al-Fattal said in a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the number of Israeli settlers in the occupied Golan Heights has exceeded 13,400 settlers to date. In addition, there are 43 settlements. Al-Fattal added that Syria believes it is necessary to adhere to and implement UN resolutions and respect international legitimacy. He said that it is now a well-known fact that the international community is capable of imposing this legitimacy on any state that violates it. He added that not implementing the UN resolutions constitutes violation of international legitimacy. The United Nations must confront this violation with the required measures.

In London, Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, affirmed his country's support for UN Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory.

In a meeting yesterday with Lebanese Ambassador to Britain Mahmud Hammud, the British minister expressed his government's happiness over the political and security arrangements in Lebanon, which guarantee its sovereignty and the unity of its territories.

British Foreign Office sources said in statements to journalists that during the meeting, the two officials discussed bilateral relations. The meeting also dealt with the schedule of Minister Hogg's expected visit to Lebanon next week. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Continuation of Peace Efforts

JN0406104191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that the Damascus Declaration was the outcome of the unified positions and perspective of the eight signatories regarding the betterment of the Arab state of affairs and the realization of ties of cooperation within the framework of common interests and objectives in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. He affirmed that "this declaration did not reflect the emergence of an axis. It rather laid the foundations for Arab action at the current and future stages, while keeping the door open for all Arab states to join this declaration in these international circumstances which are witnessing substantial changes."

On possible developments in the Middle East conflict in case the Israeli intransigence is maintained, obstructing a just and peaceful solution, the Syrian information minister told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD in statements published today that the attainment of peace or hampering it should not be hostage to the Israeli position, "despite the fact that the enemy leaders are applying various kinds of pressure to abort any peace efforts. The Gulf crisis has proved that the international will is capable of deterring and eliminating any aggression when it chooses to do so. We are working on the Arab and world scenes to help the world community reach a decision in this regard, defying the attempts to prevent this community from playing its role."

The Syrian minister expressed hope that the U.S. moves, based on the statement President Bush made to the effect that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be the basis for a peaceful Middle East settlement, will acquire greater effectiveness that befits the strength and resources of the United States of America, considering that it is a superpower which shoulders a great responsibility for safeguarding world security and peace from any violation of the UN Charter and UN resolutions.

With regard to the differences and points of agreement between Damascus on the one hand and Moscow and Washington on the other on how to resolve the conflict, the Syrian information minister said that given the current situation, the continuation of efforts to attain a just and comprehensive peace will narrow the gaps and differences on details, since the basis for everything should be the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In this regard, he indicated that his country and Moscow agree that the mechanism for their implementation should be a peace conference to be attended by the United Nations and Europe.

Cabinet Reviews Situation, Peace Efforts

JN0406142591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] The cabinet met at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The cabinet reviewed the work of the services, economic, and cultural committees. A comprehensive political review was also held during the meeting, in which Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reviewed the current contacts, the latest developments in the region, and the international efforts to hold a peace conference on the Middle East. The cabinet also discussed the topics listed on its agenda, and took the necessary decisions and measures.

Talas Addresses Officers on Lebanon Treaty

JN3005191291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 May 91

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of His Excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a ceremony was held at the Higher Military Academy this morning to mark the graduation of a new batch of commanding officers in various arms categories after completing the course and gaining various kinds of theoretical and practical knowledge in military and civilian fields.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for his excellency the president in patronizing the ceremony. [passage omitted]

Amid a storm of applause and chants praising His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Gen. Talas addressed the graduates and those attending the ceremony. He began by relaying the greetings of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad and his wishes of success for the graduating officers in performing their noble militant missions assigned to them by our people and great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Gen. Talas then reviewed the political circumstances the Arab homeland has experienced in the aftermath of the bitter consequences of the Gulf war, and he highlighted Syria's principled and firm policy, which aims to spare the Arab homeland numerous dangers out of an awareness of the bitter reality created by the crimes committed by the Iraqi regime. Syria acted under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad to forge an effective Arab solidarity that would enable the Arabs to safeguard their existence in the face of eventualities that could result from world changes and new world alliances, he added. Syria's efforts and activities were crowned with the historic Damascus Declaration on coordination and cooperation with fraternal Egypt and the Arabian Gulf states to build a new Arab order based on Arab and international charters and principles. The aim of this was to close ranks against the Zionist enemy, to restore the occupied Arab territories, and to regain the legitimate rights of our Palestinian Arab people, Gen. Talas said.

Gen. Talas added: Syria has always been at the forefront of the Arab states that are ready to make immense material and moral sacrifices to support their brothers. Everyone knows the truth regarding the honorable role our Armed Forces and our country have played on Lebanese territory since 1976 and up to now and also of the help and assistance they offered to the fraternal Lebanese state to end its ordeal and to put it on the track of a sound national solution.

Gen. Talas said: The treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination signed between Syria and Lebanon on 22 May 1991 constitutes a distinguished qualitative leap in the ties between the two fraternal countries. This treaty embodied the national and pan- Arab will and also the common history and strategic interests binding Lebanon to fraternal Syria. Moreover, this treaty will end the Zionist interference in Lebanon's affairs and open wide horizons for stronger fraternal cooperation in various spheres, he added. [passage omitted]

Concluding his speech, Gen. Talas renewed the pledge to struggler President Hafiz al-Asad that we will forge ahead behind his wise and courageous leadership and remain loyal soldiers until our nation's objectives of victory and liberation are realized. [passage omitted]

At the end of the ceremony, Gen. Talas and those accompanying him were seen off with the same hospitality and good reception accorded to them when they arrived at the ceremony.

First Group of Troops Returns From Gulf

JN0206203391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2020 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The first group of our Armed Forces, which were charged with defending the territory of Saudi Arabia and with liberating Kuwait—and whose return has been decided—arrived in the homeland today.

Paper Claims Israel Plans Direct Aggression

JN0506071391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 5 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria: the Responsible Stand," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Arab and international capitals have affirmed that Syria's participation in the peace process is essential, indeed, that there is no peace without Syria. Damascus has recently witnessed the arrival of a large number of international delegations and ranking political personalities. Their objective has been to study Syria's stand and hold talks with leader President Hafiz al-Asad on pushing forward the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Whoever follows the statements of political officials who have visited Damascus senses the extent of their appreciation for Syria's responsible and positive stand. Inasmuch as Syria has moved away from inflexibility and formalities and shown a real readiness to entrench a just and comprehensive peace, so it has adhered to the essence of the conflict represented by the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN continues: Leader President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in his meetings with ranking international delegations, including Baker, Bessmertnykh, and Andreotti, and the delegations from the PRC, Japan, Greece, and others, Syria's firm adherence to real peace which eliminates any threats of aggression, restores rights to their owners, removes occupation, and allows the allocation of resources for development. Experiments and events have proven that partial, individual deals and incomplete, distorted solutions do not make

peace, but pave the way for dangerous eruptions in the region which threaten the entire world peace. The truth is that whoever wants true peace, takes the first initiative of activating the international institutions and getting the United Nations, Europe, and all the members of the Security Council to participate in the peace process. This is not the case with Israel, which reveals its aggressive and expansionist schemes daily, refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and rejects any real peace effort. In fact, Israel is preparing for direct aggression, such as it carried out yesterday in southern Lebanon as a response to the Lebanese people's decision to entrench reconciliation, bolster the legitimate government's plan, and put an end to sabotage from outside.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: If Syria's responsible and positive stand is being received with praise by the world's peoples and governments, then it is the duty of the international community to go beyond the stage of condemning the Israeli policy which rejects peace, to a stage of actual and effective pressure. It is no longer acceptable or reasonable after the Gulf war for the international community to declare resignation toward Israel's belligerence, thus dealing a fatal blow to its credibility.

France's 'Biased Position' on Lebanon Assailed

JN0106103391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, 6 Jun (SANA)—In today's editorial under the headline "The Ever-Odd Position," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH said that [words indistinct] diametrically with Lebanon's interests which it claims to support. By such a position, it increased the intransigence of the minority of the minority [as received], leading to many setbacks, failures, and claims of imaginary rights by some to the exclusion of all others.

The newspaper added that the French position on the Lebanese question strikes a discordant note. Indeed, it almost says that France is against the solution; that is, against Lebanon and Lebanese interests. How else can we explain the French position on the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, which was an expression of an official and absolute popular Lebanese desire and an embodiment of a tangible fact that has deep roots in both history and geography?

The paper went on to say: Unable to oppose the treaty, which met the two peoples' aspirations, France has tried to circumvent it with the aim of hampering its implementation, thus revealing its one-sided vision and flagrant prejudice against Lebanon and Syria and, in the final analysis, serving Israeli interests.

AL-THAWRAH said that had France been really caring about Lebanon or at least objective, it would have demanded the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon, especially since it is aware that these are forces of invasion and destruction, that they are killing and expelling the Lebanese people, and are arresting and taking them to detention centers in the occupied territory. The paper said: France could not hide its one-sided and biased position. It demanded the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon while knowing only too well the real role of these forces in solving the Lebanese crisis and their continuous role in protecting the Lebanese people of various groups and persuasions.

The paper said that France is well aware that our forces in Lebanon and the Lebanese-Syrian treaty are part—and indeed an application—of the National Reconciliation Charter, as it is clearly stipulated in relevant provisions and articles. The treaty, therefore, is an application of the charter.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Nobody can stop the march from now on. The swift official and popular Lebanese answer to the French position affirms that there can be no going back in Lebanon even if France wanted to save itself from the fall by withdrawing its stand. This is because the shock has created its political reactions and Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs have received the message.

Arms Control Linked to Restoration of Rights

JN0106140891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In his congressional appearance, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not mince his words: He held Israel responsible for impeding his peacemaking effort and aggravating the Middle East situation. Baker told the American Congress Israel's settlement building constitutes a major stumbling block to peace. With U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney at his side, the enemy prime minister yesterday reiterated Israel's determination never to let go of the occupied Arab land.

Observers of Israeli policies over the years must come to the following conclusions: Israel refuses to pull out of the occupied territories perceiving them as part of Greater Israel; it will not cease settlement building in violation of UN Security Council resolutions; Israel flouts Security Council resolutions urging it to refrain from altering the features of and Judaizing the occupied land; it snubs U.S. and Soviet demands that Jewish immigrants not be housed in occupied land, and on top of that, states that Jews are entitled to settle wherever they would, and indeed declares that it will double the number of settlers in the Golan Heights to preempt Syrian claims to the territory.

We have lost count of Israel's no's. In his remarks to Congress, Baker stated that every time he came to the region on a peace mission the Shamir government greeted him with the news of another settlement, thus dramatizing an obvious lack of interest in peace and a brazen defiance of the will of the international community and UN resolutions.

It is fair to ask whether the international community, aware as it is of the fact that a continuation of the status quo casts a shadow over regional and global security and peace, has shouldered its responsibilities and whether it has addressed Israel's defiant mood in the appropriate language. It is fair to ask whether the international community has moved to take such measure as would curb Israel's truculence and spare the Palestinian people daily, savage killings. Will the international community move to uphold fairness and justice as it did in record time regarding the Gulf crisis? Will the international community move to save its credibility now threatened by Zionist arrogance? Aside from expressions of denunciation and regret here and there, the international community has done nothing of the kind. Such has been the futile routine over the past 43 years. Indeed, rather than being faced with deterrent, painful sanctions, Israel is being rewarded with lavish military and economic aid, with Cheney's remarks wooing Israel and undoing Baker's criticism of Zionist anti-peace policies. Moreover, the U.S. initiative to stem the flow of arms to the region meets Israel's interests and fails to take into account the real threat to Arab fortunes posed by Israel's possession of conventional and nonconventional weapons.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has made it clear that the American ideas on keeping a tab on arms supplies to the Middle East would enhance Israel's overall military edge and do untold damage to Arab interests and security. It is common knowledge that Israel is producing weapons of mass destruction as well as tanks, aircraft and heavy artillery, and that the United States will preposition sophisticated weaponry in Israel for potential use in the region. This type of weaponry will be accessible to the Israeli military to deploy in any aggression against the Arabs. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has stated over and over that Syria is committed to the peace process and will be amenable to every sincere peace endeavor predicated on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Further, Syria has come out publicly in favor of any plan to declare the Middle East a zone free of all types of weapons of mass destruction and even of conventional arms, subject to the international community moving to assume its responsibilities and end the suffering of the Palestinian people and the Israeli occupation.

The present realities on the ground do not augur well for the future. It is thanks to Israel that peace efforts have stalled. In the final analysis, the U.S. initiative proposing a halt to arms sales was targetted at the Arab states, since Israel is a veritable arsenal of conventional and nonconventional arms. Under such circumstances, Israel can only get more intransigent, aggressive, and hostile to peace. The international community is dutybound to prove its credibility and honor its public commitments. With the Palestinian issue marking time for decades, it is no longer acceptable that the Palestinian people are denied their legitimate rights and that occupation of Arab land continues in contravention of UN resolutions.

The first step down the road to a true, fair solution is the enforcement of UN resolutions and the attainment of peace so as to obviate the need for armaments, devote all resources to development, and banish all types of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, biological, and chemical. The high road to a region free of all conventional and nonconventional arms is a fair and comprehensive peace founded on UN resolutions. When the international community sees to the restitution of usurped Arab rights, they will be the first takers of disarmament proposals.

Arabs 'Disappointed' With Bush's Initiative

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[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is not only in the interest of the Middle East countries to enjoy real peace, it is also in the interest of the entire world to see tranquillity and concord prevailing in a region that has not witnessed stability for scores of years as a result of Israel's aggressiveness and expansionist wars. The real peace is the one that ends occupation, injustice, and coercion, convinces nations that they have a secure future, and opens the doors to nations' aspirations to freedom, independence, and construction removed from any threat.

Since the outset of the Corrective Movement, Syria has been calling for this genuine peace and has continued to make calls and efforts to this effect over more than 20 years. Meeting with U.S. President George Bush and his secretary of state, Baker, leader al-Asad reiterated Syria's honest desire to achieve peace and readiness to respond to any effort designed to achieve a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict that removes the specter of war and enables the regional states to devote their resources in the interest of development and economic prosperity.

However, the desire to achieve peace has remained confined to the Arab side. Baker, the Europeans before him, and the UN officials—in fact, the whole world—felt Israel's rejection of a real settlement and insistence on continuing the occupation and building settlements as if the land of the Arabs were an easy morsel for the Zionists to devour at will without reference to a right or a law. Because President George Bush himself proposed the solution on the basis of the two resolutions, 242 and 338, and in accordance with the principle of exchanging land for peace, and because he committed himself to implementing the UN resolutions, and because the Arabs responded to him honestly, dealing with Israel's intransigence is an American and international responsibility.

Secretary Baker's efforts—as Baker himself admitted—were confronted by the Zionist insistence on occupation and settlements. Everybody knows that Israel's expansionist course is the source of the conflict and tension in the region. This course has caused all previous wars and is threatening to undermine stability in the Middle East.

There will be no peace without the return of the occupied territory to its people and without the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to self-determination, considered by the United States, all other countries, and international principles and charters among the bases of contemporary international life.

The Arabs, together with many countries in the world, waited for President Bush to take the initiative and warn Israel to respect international legitimacy and resolutions. Many were disappointed when the initiative was for limiting arms shipments to the countries in the region while U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney was offering new planes to Israel and announcing the stockpiling of large quantities of advanced weapons in occupied Palestine to be at the disposal of the Israeli Army at any moment. Everybody knows that the enemy government possesses an advanced conventional and nonconventional arms industry and that any embargo on the weapons will not affect its attack capability. This is in addition to the possibility that Israel might use the American stockpile that it posseses. In other words, the American ideas expressed by President Bush will weaken the Arabs' self-defense capability, entrench Israeli military superiority, and consequently, lead to exactly the opposite results. Israel, which was established on aggression and which lives on aggression, will become more arrogant and intransigent. Its expansionist and settlement schemes will escalate; it will proceed with the Greater Israel plan. Thus, peace opportunities will collapse, the law of the jungle will prevail, and the Middle East will turn into an arena for tension, conflagration, and chaos.

A just, comprehensive, and permanent peace constitutes a passage not only for banning arms shipments to the region, but also for removing conventional and nonconventional arms and devoting resources in the interest of development and prosperity. The American ideas to this effect should be studied within the framework of the desired peace conference and as a part of the peace process. Peace alone is the guarantee; it keeps away the specter of war and annuls the need for war. Consequently, there is no alternative to a return to peace efforts, to U.S. and international pressure on Israel, and to UN resolutions, particularly since not fulfilling the promises made will undermine the credibility of the whole international community and lead the region to the edge of the abyss.